

## 2013 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

### I. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - 2013

- A. The Barron County Forest is comprised of 14 compartments with a total of 16,390 acres. The 2012 WisFIRS printout shows the following acres:

#### Forest Cover:

1. Aspen	4,674 acres
2. Bottomland Hardwoods	38 acres
3. White Birch	19 acres
4. Fir/Spruce	2 acres
5. Northern Hardwoods	2,596 acres
6. Oak	4,766 acres
7. Red Pine	344 acres
8. White Pine	297 acres
9. Black Spruce	24 acres
10. Swamp Conifers	114 acres
11. Swamp Hardwoods	291 acres
12. White Spruce	19 acres
13. Tamarack	96 acres

#### Non-forest cover:

1. Upland grass	190 acres
2. True grasses	14 acres
3. Parking Area	2 acres
4. Marsh	1,202 acres
5. Water	47 acres
6. Lowland brush	769 acres
7. Minor lakes	612 acres
8. Minor streams	23 acres
9. Right-of-way	109 acres
10. Upland brush	70 acres
11. Rock outcrops	57 acres
12. Farmland	62 acres
13. Developed Use	2 acres
14. Lowland Grass	31 acres

- B. The Forest access road system consists of 70 miles of trails and access roads classified under primary and secondary access roads. Details of classification system can be found in Chapter 700 and a map in Chapter 900 of the 2006-2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

### II. TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION

Timber Sale Status - there are 14 timber sales on the county books at this time:

- A. Two (2) sales were closed-out in 2012.  
B. Two (2) sales are expected to be closed out in 2013.

### III. TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Acres and type/species - For 2013 approximately 243 of timber sale establishment will be completed. The acreage being marked consists of 168 acres of oak and northern hardwood thinning, 38 acres of aspen improvement cut, and 37 acres of conifer thinning.
- B. A timber sale in Veterans Park was established and completed. The sale involved a seconding thinning of plantation pine and the removal of high-risk and mature timber in the park and campground area. The sale generated \$16,162.57 in revenue.

- C. A Timber sale will be marked in the Rockman's Woods area in the City of Barron in 2013. The sale is intended to remove high-risk timber to allow for the development of future crop trees.

### III TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT (cont.)

- D. 2012 - Six (6) timber sales were offered in October of 2012. All six of those sales were sold. Volumes of the sales that were sold totaled;

- 611.39 MBF (thousand board feet) Hardwood Sawtimber.
- 161.19 MBF Softwood Sawtimber.
- 6536 cords of Aspen and Mixed Hardwood cordwood.
- 284 cords of softwood cordwood.

#### I. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

Forest reconnaissance is completed following completion of timber sale or when stand is physically entered and then rescheduled. The entire forest has been re-reconned in the past 20 years and recon has been kept up to date in order to assure the most useful information possible from the reconnaissance printout.

Barron County has fully implemented the new Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System. One advantage of implementing this new system is that it will allow us to update the cultural needs segment of the reconnaissance information. Many of the needs that were in the old system are no longer being done or needed.

#### II. TIMBERSTAND IMPROVEMENT

- E. Twenty (20) acres of TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) in the form of oak release were completed in 2012. The acreage is located in Compartment 10. Monies to complete this project were supplied by a County Forest Sustainable Grant.
- F. Approximately 20 acres of oak forest that was direct seeded in 2002, located in the Silver Cr. compartment was evaluated for a T.S.I treatment. No treatment was necessary.
- G. Twenty-nine (29) acres are scheduled to be treated in the Spring of 2013 to a prescribed fire to release established oak seedling from competition.

#### III. REFORESTATION

Three oak regeneration cuts (approx. 45 ac. in total), are scheduled for 2013. Site-prep will be completed in the fall with a harvest to follow.

#### IV. FOREST PROTECTION

- H. A majority of the Barron County Forest is in the DNR intensive fire protection zones. The Silver Creek and Hay River Compartments are in non-protective zones. Agreements are in place with the appropriate fire departments.

Fire is not normally a problem except during extreme conditions. Barron County has very little conifer type to worry about.

- I. There have been no major outbreaks of insects or diseases on the County Forest in the recent past and none are anticipated. Specialists are called in whenever something of interest or an unusual nature is detected. Larch beetle is causing some mortality. EAB (emerald ash borer) and Gypsy Moth are anticipated future problems.

J.

V. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Barron County has no buildings and/or campgrounds on the County Forest.

- A. Gates. As budgeting allows we are replacing old cable gates with either pipe or farm type gates. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget.
- B. Roads and Trails Annually, money is budgeted for maintenance and development of forest access roads. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget. An existing road to Goose Lake in the Mikana block will be opened to public vehicle access in 2013. The road was improved with matting and rock by the County's Maintenance staff.
- C. Property Lines. In 2012 property lines were identified for re-marking, the program will continue in 2013.

VI. FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Habitat funds (.05 cents/acre) are used for a variety of habitat projects on the Barron County Forest. Oak regeneration is Barron County's number one priority and takes precedence over all other habitat projects.

Habitat funds will be used for trail mowing maintenance of water control structures.

VII. GIS - BARRON COUNTY FOREST

The digitization of county forest roads was completed in 2012. Additional roads and trails will be added to the database if and when they are developed. A GIS layer will be created to monitor and track the installation and maintenance of property lines.

VIII. LAND PURCHASES, SALES, EXCHANGES WITHIN COUNTY FOREST

240 acres (Wisti Property) of forested acreage that was purchased in the Town of Sumner was entered into the Barron County Forest.

IX. INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

- K. Snowmobile Clubs - Whenever possible, segments of the Barron County snowmobile trail system are placed within the Barron County Forest. To the greatest extent possible, trails are placed on existing forest access roads. Such placement often eliminates need for brushing on such segments. Disruption of snowmobile trails for logging is usually minimal. The newly created Conservation Deputy works closely with all snowmobile and ATV clubs in the County.
- L. Skiing - The Barron County Forest has a ½ mile lighted cross-country ski trail in the Waterman Lake block. Site includes a parking lot and warming house. Members of the Ice Age Trail developed and placed an information Kiosk along with paving the parking lot with the cooperation of the Barron County Highway Department. All are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The County provides annual funding to assist in the maintenance of this resource.

The Conservation Deputy position in the Barron County Sheriff Department will take responsibility of co-coordinating activities on the County trail system.

X. RECREATION

- M. Parks and Campgrounds - No parks or campgrounds are located on the Barron County Forest.
- N. Boat Landings - Boat landings on the Forest are mostly undeveloped with carry-in access only. The Little Sand Lake acquisition added two developed lake accesses to the forest.
- O. All Terrain Vehicles - Most of the Barron County Forest is closed to ATV use. The 15-year Forest Plan allows use of ATV's in County Forest after

case-by-case review by the Property Committee. Such use is limited to ungated roads that are not signed to restrict ATV use. No off-road ATV use is permitted on the forest.

- P. Snowmobile Trails - Approximately 9 miles of funded snowmobile trails are located in the forest.
- Q. Snowshoeing - A 2 ½ mile snowshoe trail was completed in 2001 with an additional 2 mile loop in 2002. Total of 4 ½ miles of three connecting loops have been signed, brushed, and ready for snow since early in 2002.
- R. Rifle Range - A rifle range is located in the Hay River block of the County Forest. It consists of a shelter, a .22 range; two big bore ranges and a pistol range.
- S. The National Ice Age Trail - traverses several compartments of the forest. Portions of the trail are found in the following compartments: Cedar Lake, Bear Lake and Waterman Lake.  
  
Parts of the above mentioned snowshoe trail uses a portion of the Ice Age Trail in the Waterman Lake block. The Ice Age Trail is always protected by timber sale contract provisions, when a timber sale comes in contact with the trail.
- T. Equestrian Trails - Two trails along with a horse trailer camping area are established in the Narrow Gauge Compartment. Establishment and maintenance was supplied by and is the responsibility of the Barron County Horse Trail Association.
- U. Turtle Creek Handicap Fishing Piers. The asphalt paving of two trail spurs and parking lot was completed in the fall of 2012. Additional work to build the actual piers will occur in 2013. (see XI.1)

#### XI. GRANTS AND FUNDING

- A. County Conservation Funds.
  - 1. The paving of two trail spurs and parking lot were completed at the Turtle Cr. Handicapped Fishing Trail in the Silver Creek unit. The work was funded by a 50% matching County Conservation Grant
- B. County Forest Sustainable Grant.
  - 1. A \$ 3,000.00 Grant was used to complete the Mikana T.S.I. project in Management Unit 10 (Mikana).
- C. Snowmobile and ATV trail funds are used to maintain and develop such trails, where appropriate. The vast majority of these trails are located on private lands.
- D. At this time 1.75 miles of ATV trails are located within the County Forest.

#### XII. OTHER TOPICS

- V. Wisconsin County Forest Association Meetings - A representative from the Property Committee and Forest Administrator have been active participants in WCFA activities and committees. Barron County will continue such participation as a means of keeping up with new ideas from other Counties, to find solutions to Barron County problems and to have a voice in legislation at the state and national level.
- W. Fifteen Year Plan Activities  
  
No amendments to the 15-Year Plan were made in 2012.
- X. Forest Certification - Barron County Forest remains certified as a sustainable forest in both FSC and SFI programs.
- Y. DNR Audit - No WDNR audits were conducted in 2012.